

NOTE

The Identity of *Doryctobracon tucumanus* (Blanchard)
(Hymenoptera, Braconidae: Opiinae)

The purpose of this note is to clarify the status of *Doryctobracon tucumanus*. Blanchard (1966. *Revista de Investigaciones Agropecuarias*, Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria, Buenos Aires, Serie 5, *Patología Vegetal* 3: 21-25) described two new species of opiine parasitoids of *Anastrepha* (Tephritidae) from Argentina, placing both in the braconid genus *Opius* Wesmael. The descriptions of *O. tucumanus* Blanchard and *O. turicai* Blanchard were based on material sent to Blanchard by Antonio Turica. Unfortunately, a publication on tephritids and their natural enemies by Turica and Mallo (1961. *IDIA Suplemento* 6: 145-161) appeared before Blanchard's descriptions, but contained Blanchard's manuscript names (thereby creating nomina nuda). The situation was further complicated when the names appeared in a catalog of the parasitic Hymenoptera of Argentina (DeSantis. 1967. *Publicación de la Comisión de Investigaciones Científicas de la Provincia de Buenos Aires*. La Plata. 337 pp.), with authorship of *tucumanus* tentatively attributed to Mallo and Turica. Fischer (1977. *Das Tierreich* 96: 1-1001) and Wharton and Marsh (1978. *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences* 68: 147-167) transferred *tucumanus* to *Doryctobracon* Enderlein, but also mistakenly attributed authorship to Turica and Mallo, the latter citing Blanchard's work as a redescription. These and associated problems with the identification of *D. tucumanus* were recently uncovered by the senior author while working on parasitoids of Tephritidae in the area around Tucumán, Argentina.

Turica and Mallo clearly attributed authorship to Blanchard (in litteris) throughout their work. Their work is not taxonomic in nature, and these authors clearly did not

intend to present a description of either of the opiine species. Although Turica and Mallo include a photograph and a one-sentence description of *Opius tucumanus*, neither, when critically examined, is sufficient to meet criteria for validation of the name *tucumanus*. The description given by Turica and Mallo (1961, p. 149) is clearly stated to apply to both *tucumanus* and *turicai*. Thus, Article 13(a)(i) (International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, Third edition. 1985. University of California Press, Berkeley) is not satisfied, since a scientific name, in order to be valid, "must be accompanied by a description or definition that states in words characters that are purported to differentiate the taxon." The valid name of this species is therefore *Doryctobracon tucumanus* (Blanchard, 1966).

Wharton and Marsh included *D. tucumanus* in a key to opiine species reared from tephritids. They were unable to locate the type material at that time, and based their characterization on the description by Blanchard and the figure in the paper by Turica and Mallo. The type material of *Opius tucumanus* Blanchard was kindly located for us in the collection of the Museo de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia" in Buenos Aires by Dr. Axel Bachmann. The type series was examined by the senior author, who checked the labels carefully to determine that this was indeed the material on which the original description was based. He also compared the type series to specimens collected more recently from the vicinity of the type locality. Two syntype females were then sent to the junior author, who compared them with specimens of *Doryctobracon* collected from other parts of Latin America, and confirmed their identity.

Wharton and Marsh misread Blanchard's description and stated that the fore and middle tibiae and femora were dark brown to black. Blanchard, however, correctly noted that only the hind legs were darkened. The type material of *D. tucumanus* thus runs directly to *Doryctobracon areolatus* (Szépligeti, 1911. Bolletino del Laboratorio di Zoologia Generale e Agraria, Portici 5: 285-286) in the key included in the publication by Wharton and Marsh. Comparison of the syntype females with specimens of *D. areolatus* collected in Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil, and Argentina shows that *D. tucumanus* (Blanchard) is a junior subjective synonym of the widespread *Anastrepha* parasitoid *D. areolatus* (Szépligeti) (**new synonym**). *Doryctobracon areolatus* is most readily recognized by the following combination of characters: propodeum areolate; head and fore and middle coxae, femora, and tibiae yellow to yellow-orange; meso- and metasoma generally yellow to yellow-orange, though mesoscutum often darker, and apical abdominal terga frequently darkened, especially in males; wings varying from hyaline to slightly dusky, never banded or with pale spots; hind tibia dark at least apically and basally, and nearly always with a distinct pale band medially. More complete descriptions of the known

species of *Doryctobracon* are provided by Fischer (1977; 1980. Polskie Pismo Entomologiczne 50: 215-269).

To further clarify the status of *D. tucumanus*, we herein designate a lectotype from Blanchard's syntype series in the Museo de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia." The lectotype female bears the following labels: 1) Loreto Mis. XI-58 A Turica 1. [handwritten in blue ink with the following additional data on the reverse side:] exAnastrepha s/ubajay 2) Col E. E. Blanchard [printed in black ink] 3) Ms. Arg. Cs. Nat. [printed in black ink] 4) ejemplar perteneciente a la serie tipica A. Roig A. 1993 [handwritten in black ink on pink paper] 5) LECTOTYPE *Opius tucumanus* Blanchard, 1966 det. Wharton 1994 [handwritten in black ink on red label]

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